

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1-9 (canceled).

10 (currently amended). A method for forming wide paint film parts, which comprises:

providing apparatus for forming wide paint film parts, having a frame; and, attached to the frame, at least two paint film stock grasping members, which generally oppose one another, which can grasp deformable paint film stock, at least one of which can be moved apart from the other while the stock is grasped;

providing ~~a~~ deformable paint film stock, which is:

in a form of a discrete, substantially

planar sheet,

made of a laminate material including

a deformable base having a paint film

laminated thereon that provides a

painted surface finish, and

able to be itself formed into a part

through vacuum or pressure molding;

grasping the stock sheet on generally opposing sides by at least two paint film stock grasping members; and

moving, while the stock is so grasped, the at least one of the at least two paint film stock grasping members apart from the other so as to draw or stretch the stock between the at least two paint film stock grasping members in the plane of the sheet so as to form a planarly drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet that retains a painted surface finish.

11 (currently amended). The method of claim 10, wherein heat is applied to the stock sheet to facilitate stretching.

12 (currently amended). The method of claim 10, wherein the stock sheet is stretched to at least about 125% of at least one of its original dimensions it had before stretching.

13-19 (canceled).

20 (new). The method of claim 10, wherein the deformable base of the stock sheet is a thermoformable material.

21 (new). The method of claim 20, wherein the stock sheet is loaded in the apparatus, and the stock sheet is grasped by the paint film stock grasping members through jaws associated with said members; then the stock sheet in the loaded apparatus is softened by heating; and then the stock sheet is drawn or stretched.

22 (new). The method of claim 21, wherein the softened stock sheet is drawn or stretched along at least two non-parallel axes in the plane.

23 (new). The method of claim 22, wherein the stock sheet is substantially rectangular or square.

24 (new). The method of claim 23, wherein two of the at least two non-parallel axes are substantially orthogonal to one another.

25 (new). The method of claim 24, wherein the stock sheet and apparatus loaded with it is moved into an oven for heating, and then is drawn or stretched.

26 (new). The method of claim 10, wherein the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet is further subject to vacuum or pressure molding to form a three dimensional wide paint

film stock part.

27 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet is substantially cooled before it is further subject to the molding.

28 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein a mold is moved into position with respect to the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet to subject it to the molding, without substantial cooling of the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet.

29 (new). The method of claim 22, wherein the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet is further subject to vacuum or pressure molding to form a three dimensional wide paint film stock part.

30 (new). The method of claim 29, wherein the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet is substantially cooled before it is further subject to the molding.

31 (new). The method of claim 29, wherein a mold is moved into position with respect to the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet to subject it to the molding, without substantial cooling of the drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet.

32 (new). An article of manufacture comprising a drawn or stretched paint film stock part precursor or a formed wide paint film stock part, wherein said precursor is substantially two dimensional, and said part is substantially three dimensional; wherein each of said precursor and said part, respectively, is made to include a method for forming wide paint film parts, which includes:

providing apparatus for forming wide paint film parts,
having a frame; and, attached to the frame, at least
two paint film stock grasping members, which
generally oppose one another, which can grasp
deformable paint film stock, at least one of which
can be moved apart from the other while the stock
is grasped;

providing deformable paint film stock, which is:

in a form of a discrete, substantially
planar sheet,
made of a laminate material including a
deformable base having a paint film
laminated thereon that provides a
painted surface finish, and
able to be itself formed into a part
through vacuum or pressure molding;

grasping the stock sheet on generally opposing sides
by at least two paint film stock grasping members;
and

moving, while the stock is so grasped, the at least one
of the at least two paint film stock grasping
members apart from the other so as to draw or
stretch the stock between the at least two paint
film stock grasping members in the plane of the
sheet so as to form a planarly drawn or stretched
planar laminate paint film sheet that retains a
painted surface finish; and

wherein each of said precursor and said part retains the

painted surface finish over substantially if not completely all of its visible finished surface.

33 (new). The article of claim 30, which is said precursor.

34 (new). The article of claim 30, which is said part.

35 (new). The article of claim 34, wherein said part is a tonneau cover for a pickup truck.